

# The Sheep 2011 Study

**I**n January 2011, the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS)—a unit within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)—will launch the Sheep 2011 study. This national study marks the first time in 10 years that NAHMS has taken an in-depth look at the U.S. sheep industry. Producers from 22 States\* with the Nation’s largest sheep inventories will be asked to participate in Sheep 2011. The study will examine the priority health and health management issues facing the U.S. sheep industry.

\*California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming



## Study Focus

Sheep 2011 is a national study designed to provide individual participants, stakeholders, and the industry with valuable information representing 70 percent of U.S. farms with one or more ewes and 85 percent of the U.S. ewe inventory. Sheep 2011 will

- Describe trends in sheep health and management practices from 1996 to 2011.
- Describe management and biosecurity practices used to control common infectious diseases, including scrapie, ovine progressive pneumonia, Johne’s disease, and caseous lymphadenitis.
- Estimate the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites and anthelmintic resistance.
- Estimate the prevalence of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* in domestic sheep flocks. Relate the presence of the organism in blood and nasal secretions to clinical signs and demographic and management factors.
- Facilitate the collection of information and samples regarding the causes of abortion storms in sheep.
- Determine producer awareness of the zoonotic potential of contagious ecthyma (sore mouth) and the management practices used to prevent transmission of the disease.
- Provide serum to include in the serum bank for future research.

## How You Can Help

By participating in Sheep 2011, you will help the industry and your own operation by contributing to the development of reliable and valuable information that will be used to

- Educate the producers and veterinarians of tomorrow,
- Help policymakers and industry make informed decisions,
- Measure the impacts of disease, and
- Assist researchers and private enterprise to identify and focus on vital issues related to sheep health and productivity.

## Testing Options

The following options will be available:

- **Fecal parasite load and possibly anthelmintic resistance testing**

**Goal:** Estimate the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites and anthelmintic resistance.

- ***Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae***

**Goals:** Estimate the prevalence of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* in domestic sheep flocks. Relate the presence of the organism in blood and nasal secretions to clinical signs as well as demographic and management factors.

- **Sore mouth**

**Goal:** Identify strains of sore mouth if present on the operation.

*The data and analyses from the NAHMS sheep studies are extremely valuable to our industry and have many uses, including identifying emerging or new disease conditions, establishing research priorities, working with pharmaceutical and biologics companies on product needs, and providing timely information to State and Federal Government agencies.*

*Paul Rogers  
Deputy Director of Policy  
American Sheep Industry*

## How You Will Benefit

If you participate in Sheep 2011, you will receive

- Reports and information sheets that will enable you to compare your operation—including management decisions and practices—with other sheep operations.
- Results of gastrointestinal parasite and possibly anthelmintic resistance testing.
- Results of testing for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, a disease-causing organism that can decrease productivity and allow for secondary bacterial infections.
- Results of testing for sore mouth.



USDA, Judith Rodriguez



*The NAHMS Sheep 2011 Study will help sheep producers identify management and biosecurity techniques designed to prevent the spread of disease.*

*Jim Logan, DVM  
State Veterinarian  
Wyoming Livestock Board*

## What Your Participation Involves

Participation in all NAHMS studies is voluntary. If you are selected to participate in Sheep 2011\* and decide to do so, representatives from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will visit you to complete a questionnaire. If you are eligible and choose to continue in the study, veterinary medical officers (VMOs) and/or animal health technicians (AHTs) will visit and explain further phases of the study.

- NASS will contact selected sheep producers in January and February 2011 to complete a questionnaire.
- From March through May 2011, VMOs and/or AHTs will visit you to complete an additional questionnaire and discuss participation in biological sampling.

\*Farms with fewer than 20 ewes at the time of sample selection will follow a different study protocol that will involve completing only a short questionnaire by mail or, if preferred, by follow-up telephone call. This process is voluntary and strictly confidential.

## A Scientific Approach

APHIS established NAHMS to collect and report accurate and valuable information on animal health and management in the United States. Since 1990, NAHMS has developed national estimates on disease prevalence and other factors related to the health of U.S. sheep, goat, dairy cattle, swine, beef cattle, equine, poultry, and catfish populations. The science-based results produced by NAHMS have proven to be of considerable value to the U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries. NAHMS studies are

- National in scope,
- Voluntary and confidential,
- Statistically valid,
- Scientific, and
- Collaborative in nature.

## Confidentiality

Because NAHMS' studies rely on voluntary participation, APHIS protects the privacy of every participant. Only those collecting the data know the identity of the respondent. No name or address is ever recorded in any APHIS database. No data will be reported on any individual or in a manner that would allow the identification of an individual.

## For More Information...

To find out more about Sheep 2011, please contact

USDA-APHIS  
Veterinary Services, Attention: NAHMS  
NRRRC Building B, Mailstop 2E7  
2150 Centre Avenue  
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117  
Phone: (970) 494-7000  
Email: [NAHMS@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:NAHMS@aphis.usda.gov)

Or visit NAHMS on the Web at  
<http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov/>.

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# Sheep 2011

## An In-Depth Look at the U.S. Sheep Industry

